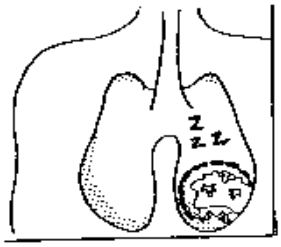
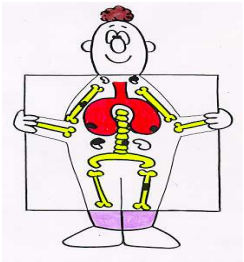
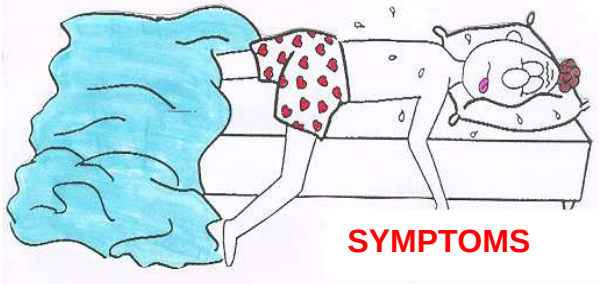
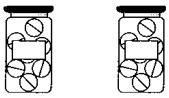
TUBERCULOSIS

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

TB INFECTION	TB DISEASE
 TB GERM - ASLEEP	 TB GERM - DOING DAMAGE
 POSITIVE SKIT TEST	 SYMPTOMS
 NO	CONTAGIOUS YES
TREATABLE ❖ PREVENT TB DISEASE	TREATABLE  ❖ CURE ❖ PREVENT SPREAD

Egghead artwork courtesy of Alberta Health

For information on TB, call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700
www.peel-stoptb.ca

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TB Infection & TB Disease

are not the same

It is important that you know the difference.

TB Infection	TB Disease
❖ You have the germs in your body. Your body has walled the germs off so they can do no damage.	❖ TB germs are multiplying and causing damage. TB usually causes disease in the lungs but can also affect other organs.
❖ You have a positive skin test. Your chest x-ray showed no TB Disease. You may develop TB Disease in the future.	❖ You are sick. Symptoms – weakness, fever, weight loss; cough, chest pain, coughing up blood when TB is in the lungs; pain if in other parts of the body.
❖ You are not contagious. You are not sick.	❖ You are contagious if the TB germ is in your lungs and you are coughing.
❖ TB Infection can be treated with 6-12 months of medication. Treatment will prevent TB Disease from developing.	❖ TB Disease is treatable and curable as long as you take all your medication. Early treatment prevents the spread of TB to others.

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